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NATO-Canada: Ottawa's decision to cut its forces in Europe has brought sharp negative reactions from its allies.

At an unofficial gathering during last week's Defense Planning Committee meeting, Belgium's defense minister called the Canadian intention a "catastrophic" example for the smaller allies and one which would have the "gravest consequences for the democratic countries of Europe." The British defense minister termed the cuts "totally unacceptable" and said that Ottawa could only make "proposals," not "decisions" in matters affecting the whole Alliance. West German Defense Minister Schroeder expressed concern that Canada's unilateral act might strengthen the hand of those seeking a reduced US military contribution to NATO.

Canadian Defense Minister Cadieux--who reportedly opposed the reductions--told the members "there may be a reassessment" by Ottawa regarding details although he thought the extent of the cuts was not negotiable. He described two elements of possible flexibility--the timing of withdrawals and the mix of aircraft (combat vs. reconnaissance) left in Europe.

Despite Cadieux's statement that Ottawa's basic decision was not negotiable, other NATO members refused to accept his presentation as a step toward fulfilling Canada's obligation to consult with the Alliance on its military contribution. Consequently Cadieux said he would reconsider his plans to make a public presentation of the slated reduction before Parliament adjourns in late June.

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[REDACTED]

Kuwait: The government has begun a roundup of members of the Kuwait Arab Nationalist Movement, the principal opposition group in this oil-rich state, but the move may send the party underground.

The movement is a predominantly Marxist organization that has nevertheless attracted considerable support from prosperous Kuwaiti merchants, who see it as the only alternative to the monopoly of political power now enjoyed by the ruling family. Because it possesses both funds and educated leaders, the movement presents a potentially serious threat to the regime, which in the past has periodically reacted by sending some members into exile.

The pretext for the latest arrests is a series of bombing incidents that took place last January, following a relatively successful oil workers' strike. It is generally believed by the public that the government, alarmed by the strength of the movement-led union, contrived the bombings itself. The defense minister, however, has told the press that "full confessions" have been obtained, and that trials will occur soon and will probably be public. The regime may have decided that exile has not been an effective deterrent.

The number of those arrested in the recent sweep is somewhere between 15 and 60, including several labor leaders. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the remaining members may be driven underground [REDACTED]

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